

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UY

SUBJ: JORGE VALENZUELA

REF: (A) STATE 087455, (B) MONTEVIDEO 1460

1. IN APRIL 22 INTERVIEW WITH MRS. JORGE VALENZUELA, EMBOFF LEARNED THAT, CONTRARY TO INFO IN REFTEL (A), GOU ALLEGED OFFER TO RELEASE HER HUSBAND, IF A THIRD COUNTRY WOULD ACCEPT HIM, WAS NOT MADE TO HER. RATHER, LAST AUGUST SHE SAID A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER SHOWED HER HUSBAND A DOCUMENT, WHICH SHE HAS NOT SEEN, AUTHORIZING HIS DEPARTURE FROM URUGUAY. SHE TOLD EMBOFF ON APRIL 25 THAT DOCUMENT WAS SIGNED BY COL. GALLARDO AND A MAJ. SILVEIRA, WHO ACCORDING TO HER, ARE ASSIGNED TO THE SECOND ARMY DIVISION. (NOTE: DATT COULD NOT IDENTIFY THE OFFIERS AS THERE IS MORE THAN ONE COL. GALLARDO AND MORE THAN ONE MAJ. SILVEIRA.)

2. ACCORDING TO MRS. VALENZUELA, HER HUSBAND WAS ARRESTED JULY 7, 1972, FOR HAVING WORKED FOR THE IGLESIA Y SOCIEDAD EN AMERICA LATINA, UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES HE HELPED URUGUAYNS WITH POLITICAL PROBLEMS LEAVE URUGUAY AND RELOCATE ABROAD. (NOTE: REASON FOR ARREST AS STATED BY HER CONFLICTS WITH THAT REPORTED IN MONTEVIDEO 1460.)

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3. MRS. VALENZUELA SAID HER HUSBAND WAS MOVED TO THE SAN JOSE PRISON FACILITY IN SEPTEMBER 1976 FROM A PRISON IN FLORIDA. IN FEBRUARY 1976, A LT. COL. MACIEL HAD SPOKEN WITH HIM AND FOUND HIS FACE COVERED WITH BANDAGES. MACIEL PROMISED TO LOOK INTO IT BUT WAS SOON REPLACED BY A LT. COL. PERDOMO WHO TRANSFERRED HIM TO A UNIT NEAR THE HEADQUARTERS OF MILITARY DIVISION NO. 2. IN SAN JOSE.

4. THE SAN JOSE FACILITY IS A FORMER STABLE WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS VERY DIRTY. SHE SAID THE WATER IS IMPURE AND THAT HER HUSBAND IS SUFFERING FROM A CHRONIC INTESTINAL PROBLEM WITH DIARRAHEA-LIKE SYMPTOMS FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING MEDICATION FROM THE AUTHORITIES. SHE SAID THE FOOD CONSISTS SOLELY OF MEAT AND RICE. THE FAMILY-- THEY HAVE FIVE CHILDREN AGES 10-18--TAKES FOOD TO HIM ON THEIR WEEKLY SUNDAY VISITS.

5. MRS. VALENZUELA SAID HER HUSBAND STILL HAS NOT BEEN SENTENCED. HIS CASE HAS BEEN UNDER REVIEW BY A JUDGE SINCE OCTOBER 1976. MRS VALENZUELA SAID HER HUSBAND HAS A LAWYER BUT HE HAS NEVER INTERVIEWED MR. VALENZUELA DESPITE HER REQUESTS THAT HE DO SO. AS THEY FEEL A JUDICIAL DECISION IS IMMINENT, THEY DO NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE TO CHANGE LAWYERS NOW.

6. HIGHLY PLACED GOU OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF HER HUSBAND'S CASE, SHE SAID. AT THE BANCO DO BRASIL WHERE SHE WORKS SHE BACAME ACQUAINTED WITH DAUGHTERS OF FIRST DIVISION COMMANDER GENERAL CHRISTI, WHO REPORTEDLY SAID HE COULD DO NOTHING FOR VALENZUELA BECAUSE THE CASE WAS OUTSIDE HIS JURISDICTION.

7. MRS. VALENZUELA SAID SHE HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

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8. COMMENT: SECOND PORTION REF (B) CONSTITUTED OUR ASSESSMENT OF REASONS WHY WE BELIEVED IT INADVISABLE REVIEW VALENZUELA CASE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. SINCE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US INDICATES HE IS INELIGIBLE FOR VISA FOR U.S., BOTH UNDER REGULAR PROGRAM AND UNDER REFUGEE PAROLE PROGRAM, WE DO NOT CONSIDER IT DESIRABLE IN CONTEXT OF OUR PRESENT BILATERAL RELATIONS TO MAKE APPROACH ON BEHALF OF HIS RELEASE FOR TRAVEL TO AN UNSPECIFIED THIRD COUNTRY WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE THE U.S. IF FURTHER CONSIDERATION IS TO BE GIVEN TO THIS CASE, WE SUGGEST IT BE DONE VIA THE DEPARTMENT TO ONE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH SUCH CASES, FOLLOWED OR PRECEDED BY AN INITIATIVE OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE OF THE COUNTRY WHICH MIGHT BE WILLING RECEIVE HIM. DESPITE ALLEGED STATEMENT IN PARA ONE OF DOCUMENT AUTHORIZING HIS DEPARTURE, WE HAVE RECEIVED FURTHER CONFIRMATION FROM A WESTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSY OF GOU PRESENT POSTURE ON RELEASE OF PERSONS VIEWED AS HARDCORE SUBVERSIVES, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD INCLUDE VALENZUELA. SOURCE IN THAT EMBASSY TOLD EMBOFF THAT IT HAD 20 OF ITS

NATIONALS, DUAL NATIONALS OR PERSONS WITH CLAIM TO DUAL
NATIONALITY UNDER DETENTION HERE ON CHARGES OF SUBVERSION.
ONLY THREE OF THESE HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND ALLOWED LEAVE
COUNTRY BASED ON FAIRLY MINOR NATURE OF CHARGES AGAINST THEM.
ONE OF THE 20 IS A CATHOLIC PRIEST WHO WAS DENIED RELEASE
DESPITE AN APPROACH AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.
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